

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, wherein the communication apparatus transfers the image data to a destination on the second network by using one of a plurality of transfer paths that are on the second network, said apparatus comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive image data via a first network;

a first discrimination unit configured to discriminate if the received image data is confidential or not;

a judgment unit configured to judge if security of the each transfer path to the destination of the received image data via the second network is ensured or not, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is confidential;

a first control unit configured to control, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is not confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data via the second network regardless of whether security of the transfer path to the destination of the received image data via the second network is ensured or not; and

a second control unit configured to control, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data via the second network when the result of the

judgment by said judgment unit indicates security of the transfer path is ensured, and to store the received image data in a storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data without transferring the received image data to the destination when the result of the judgment by said judgment unit indicates security of the transfer path is not ensured.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

a management unit configured to manage address of the destination in relation with whether there exists a public key;

a second discrimination unit configured to discriminate whether there exists the public key related to the address of the destination, if said judgment unit judges that the transfer path is not secure;

an encrypting unit configured to encrypt the received image data, if said second discrimination unit discriminates that there exists the public key; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the received image data encrypted by said encrypting unit to the destination.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A control method for a communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, wherein the communication apparatus transfers the image data to a destination on the second network by using one of a plurality of transfer paths that are on the second network, said method comprising:

receiving image data via a first network;

discriminating if the received image data is confidential or not;

judging if security of ~~the~~ each transfer path to the destination of the received

image data via the second network is ensured or not, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is confidential;

controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is not confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data via the second network regardless of whether security of the transfer path to the destination of the received image data via the second network is ensured or not; and

controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data via the second network when the result of the judgment indicates security of the transfer path is ensured, and to store the received image data in a storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data without transferring the received image data to the destination when the result of the judgment indicates security of the transfer path is not ensured.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) A storage medium computer-readably storing a program for causing a computer to execute a control method for a communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, wherein the communication apparatus transfers the image data to a destination on the second network by using one of a plurality of transfer paths that are on the second network, said method comprising:

receiving image data via a first network;

discriminating if the received image data is confidential or not;

judging if security of ~~the~~ each transfer path to the destination of the received image data via the second network is ensured or not, when the result of the discrimination indicates the

received image data is confidential;

controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is not confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data via the second network regardless of whether security of the transfer path to the destination of the received image data via the second network is ensured or not; and

controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data via the second network when the result of the judgment indicates security of the transfer path is ensured, and to store the received image data in a storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data without transferring the received image data to the destination when the result of the judgment indicates security of the transfer path is not ensured.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a transmission unit configured to transmit information to the destination of the received data in a case where the received image data is stored in a storage area, the information indicating that the received image data is stored in the storage area.